

REMARKS

The specification was amended to recite the claim of benefit to which the application is entitled pursuant to 35 U.S.C. Sec. 120. Claim 4 was amended to recite the subject matter of claim 1, now canceled, and other claims were amended to not depend on a cancelled claim. The amendments add no new subject matter to the application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-9 and 56-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foley, U.S. Patent 6,319,662, in view of Tsyurupa, 193 on form 1449, and Davankov, 110 on form 1449, and Tlustakova, U.S. Patent 4,634,604, and if necessary in further view of Yamamoto, U.S. Patent 4,725,355.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-9 and 56-59 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a). Claim 1 was cancelled, and claims dependent thereon were amended to depend from claim 4 which is now an independent claim. The Office Action did not discuss how the subject matter of claim 4 was disclosed by the references. The Office Action consequently failed to establish the prima facie unpatentability of the subject matter of claim 4. In addition, the references themselves do not establish the prima facie unpatentability of claim 4, as there is no disclosure or suggestion of this claimed method in the references. In view of this, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of amended claim 4 and its dependent claims is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 282172000902. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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